

pean conflagration. The first steps were taken in November, 1941, at Boston, but no final action could be taken to transfer the official sanction in Brussels to America without the concurrence and approval of all the affiliated branches in America.

The act by which the transference of the society was effected was signed either personally or by proxy by the delegates from all the affiliated societies of the Americas.

By action of the Council of Delegates, the official seat of the society will be established in the Inter-American Division of the New York Academy of Medicine, directed by Dr. Mahlon Ashford, where Dr. Enrique J. Cervantes, assistant secretary-treasurer of the executive committee, editor of *America Clinica*, the official organ of the society, and editor and secretary of the Hispanic-American Medical Society, will be able to render service to the fellows of the society and to medical visitors coming from the Latin American countries.

The affairs of the society will be administered by an executive committee composed of Dr. Elliott C. Cutler, Col. M. C., U. S. Army, *chairman in absentia*, Dr. Eugene Pool, Dr. Arthur W. Allen and Dr. Matas.

A meeting held on February 12 was presided over by Dr. Eugene Pool, who serves as acting chairman of the executive committee for the United States, in the absence of Colonel Elliott C. Cutler, now at the front. Dr. José Arce, dean of the University of Buenos Aires, is serving as acting president in the absence of Professor L. Meyer, of Brussels, detained in Belgium by Nazi compulsion.

A revision of the constitution prepared by Dr. Matas was adopted in November and a representative group of fellows from New York and elsewhere signed the act of reorganization, as witnesses of the signing of the act by the delegates of the governing council. These included Dr. Mahlon Ashford, director of the Inter-American Division of the academy, and Dr. Archibald Malloch, librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine; as fellows and guests were Drs. Walter Estell Lee, of Philadelphia; Russell S. Fowler, Ralph Colp, Edwin G. Ramsdell, Frederick W. Bancroft, Howard Lillienthal, Charles Elsborg, Seward Erdman, Carl Eggers, Henry Lyle, and others elsewhere by proxy.

#### GENETICS IN THE U. S. S. R.

FOLLOWING are the essential parts of a letter written to Dr. M. Demerec, the Carnegie Institution, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, by Dr. S. Gershenson at Ufa, U. S. S. R., on July 6, and received by registered mail on November 20:

My laboratories, both in the Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and in

the Kiev State University were, like all other scientific institutions, safely evacuated from Kiev. At present the first of them, where I am working, is in Ufa (Ural), the second in Kzyl-Orda (Middle Asia). All our laboratory equipment is with us, but we lost all our *Drosophila* stocks, among which were some very valuable ones (*e.g.*, a collection of over 100 mutant genes of *D. buscki*, most of which were already mapped, collections of mutant genes from wild populations of *D. funebris*, *D. melanogaster*, etc.), and both our laboratory and private libraries are also lost. This latter loss is especially painful, and I should be greatly obliged to you and to all American geneticists whom I would kindly request you to inform on the subject, for sending of not only the reprints of new works appearing out of press, but also for sending of all old reprints which you can spare. . . .

At present we are actively occupied with selection, breeding and genetics of the oak silk-worm and of cattle. Besides this work on economically important objects, I continue to study the distribution and dynamics of melanism in the hamster—a work that I have been leading during the last three years, and which has already given some interesting results concerning the mechanism of natural selection and the origin of lower taxonomic units. I am also working on some theoretical genetical-evolutionary questions.

Please extend my best regards to my colleagues. Kindly tell them as well as other American geneticists that we are trying here to help all we can in the great fight against fascism and that we unanimously believe in a complete victory over our common foe. We all greatly welcome the recent agreement between U. S. A. and U. S. S. R. and trust that it will lead, among other important results, also to the further development of scientific relations between our countries.

Information received from the Embassy of the U. S. S. R., in reply to inquiries, indicates that books and reprints can be sent by mail in small packages addressed directly to the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian S. S. R. in Ufa. If, however, the material is very bulky and can only be sent in packing cases, it would be advisable to send it by sea. In that case, the Embassy will be glad to send shipping directions if the weight and dimensions are supplied.

#### THE ST. LOUIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy was held in the Hotel Statler in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 11, 12 and 13. There were 393 members and guests registered in attendance. The meetings were held jointly with the Soil Science Society of America.

A general meeting was held on the morning of November 12, with President Richard Bradfield presiding. Papers were presented by Dr. O. S. Aamodt and by Dr. Frank W. Parker, of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Following these papers a committee

composed of Dean M. F. Miller of Missouri, Dr. L. F. Graber of Wisconsin, and Dr. R. D. Lewis of Ohio led a round table discussion on "The American Society of Agronomy and the War." The annual dinner was held in the evening, at which time President Richard Bradfield delivered his presidential address. The Crops Section had one general program and eleven subsectional meetings. Thirty-four papers were presented and conferences held on Statistics, Teaching, Alfalfa and Corn Improvement.

The Soil Science Society had one general program and thirteen sectional programs. Eighty-two papers were presented. In addition to formal papers there were discussions of Soil Survey Techniques, Problems of Soil Classification and the Contribution of Soil Survey to the War Effort and Post-war Planning. The annual banquet was held on Wednesday evening, when D. Howard Doane, of the Doane Agricultural Service, St. Louis, gave the address.

A meeting of interest to members of both societies was held on Friday morning. At this session five papers were presented on the general topic of "Cropping Practices in the Great Plains."

Vice-president F. D. Keim, of the Society of Agronomy, announced the names of the fellows elect and presented certificates at the annual dinner. Frank W. Parker was elected vice-president of the society.

#### THE UPPER PENINSULA MINERAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

THE Upper Peninsula Mineral Resources Conference was held on November 21 at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Houghton, with five federal representatives in attendance. The conference was planned to study exploitation and utilization of the mineral resources of northern Michigan.

The U. S. Geological Survey was represented by Drs. W. S. Burbank, J. J. Runner and C. F. Park, Jr.; the U. S. Bureau of Mines by E. F. Fitzhugh and District Engineer E. P. Barrett; the Michigan Geological Survey by its director, Dr. R. A. Smith; the University of Michigan by Professor K. K. Landes, head of the department of geology; Michigan State College by Professor S. G. Bergquist, head of the department of geology and geography; the University of Minnesota Mines Experiment Station by Director E. W. Davis; the Michigan College of Mining and Technology by a large number of faculty members; and mining companies by their chief geologists, mining engineers and other officials.

The address of welcome was given by President Grover C. Dillman, of the institute. The introductory session was conducted by Dr. Smith. The luncheon address on "Lake Superior Iron Ore and the War Emergency" was delivered by Mr. Davis.

Committees appointed included those on copper ores, iron ores, mineral dressing, non-metallies, geo-physical prospecting, federal and state cooperation and planning, and university and college cooperation and specialization.

The chairmen and co-chairmen included Messrs. Burbank, Fitzhugh, Smith, Landes, Bergquist and Dr. T. M. Broderick, chief geologist of the Calumet and Hecla Consolidated Copper Company; E. L. Derby, Jr., chief geologist of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company; Stephen Royce, consulting mining geologist representing Pickands Mather and Company; Dean James Fisher, of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology; and Professor N. H. Manderfield, head of the mineral dressing department of the institute.

In charge of all arrangements was Dr. A. K. Snelgrove, formerly of Princeton University and now head of the department of geological engineering at Michigan College.

#### THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

SEVENTY-THREE engineering colleges from all parts of the country have organized an Engineering College Research Association to cooperate with the war agencies of the Government and with war industry in the prosecution and promotion of research needed for the war effort.

The council of the association, with Dean W. R. Woolrich, of the College of Engineering of the University of Texas, as chairman, held its first meeting in Washington on November 27. The formation of the organization closely follows the establishment by the War Production Board of the Office of Production Research and Development under the direction of Dr. Harvey N. Davis, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology. A close degree of liaison between this office and other governmental and private agencies dealing with wartime research will be maintained by the association in an effort to utilize to the fullest possible degree the vast research facilities of the engineering colleges of the nation.

The association will coordinate the research activities of the engineering college laboratories and personnel for the task of conducting vital studies affecting war materials and production. It will also assist in organizing the research facilities of the engineering colleges in undertaking studies designed to promote post-war reconstruction and economic adjustment through new and improved processes affecting industry, public works, the conservation and development of natural resources, public health and other similar activities. It is further planned that the group will act as a continuing agency for developing and coordinating industrial and scientific research and the furtherance of advanced study in the colleges of